

From: Curtis Michelson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/24/01 1:28am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I want to just say as a consumer, and as an independent software developer myself, I strongly support the nine states who are looking for tougher remedies against Microsoft. The proposed settlement doesn't go nearly far enough.

Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Computer made a good point recently that requiring Microsoft to offer software to needy schools is not punishment. It further extends their presence in a market they are looking to further dominate. It's a gift, and not a sanction.

Microsoft was found GUILTY of monopolistic practices and needs to be punished. One billion dollars is a fraction (1/30th more or less) of Microsoft's on hand cash assets.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to some important points made by Robert Cringely, noted computer columnist.
<http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20011206.html> His concerns about the settlement allowing Microsoft to not publish its API's to businesses it deems "non-commercial" like Open Source projects needs to be heard. We have to make sure that any third party software developers (like myself), whether working for profit or nonprofit institutions, have the same access to Windows API's as Microsoft's own engineers do.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,
Curtis Michelson
Small Company (www.smallco.net)
Orlando, FL